

LSHS
ARCHIVIST

~ NEWSLETTER OF LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~

The
Dr. Robert
Montgomery
House

SUMMER 2024



LAKE SCUGOG
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

~
DEDICATED TO THE
HISTORY OF THE LAKE
SCUGOG AREA

~
• ESTABLISHED 1969 •

Lake Scugog Historical Society

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2023-2025

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or by mail at:

LSHS 175 Perry St. Port Perry,
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marilyn Pearce



Each year as I sit down to write my summer message I can't help thinking of what a wonderful country and community we live in. Sure we have challenges we must resolve but when in history did we not. Canada is not alone as post Covid pandemic the world has changed but one thing has not and should not and that is creating new opportunities to build a future we want to pass along to the next generation.



LSHS is in the process of building that new future for our organization. Recently we created a new card to put in various places around the Township telling folks about us and what we do. One of our newest executive members helped to design it and came up with three key words to define our vision:

DISCOVER - PRESERVE - INSPIRE

As you read through this newsletter you can see how your Board is putting those words into action.

DISCOVER: recently the Prince Albert and Area Driving Tour was launched and on August 18th the Blackstock and area driving tour will roll out. Each tour documents and promotes the unique history of our local villages, communities, cemeteries and families. Copies can be found at the Library, the Museum, the Township office, and various other locations. We hope you will be Inspired to help us preserve more of the local historical documents, photos and stories to add to our LSHS archival collection.

PRESERVE: this past Spring at the LSHS annual meeting guest speaker Diane Chin, chairperson of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario spoke about the need to Keep, Fix and Reuse our historical buildings. At the same time, the 339 historically significant buildings identified in Scugog were slated to be de-listed this October from the Township's heritage registry. The Municipal Heritage Committee faced with that prospect held a public meeting encouraging the owners of those properties to seek a heritage designation in order to delay the possibility of demolition without public consultation. The words of Preserve and Inspire were never more important. The built heritage of Scugog is one of our most important legacies and LSHS will continue to advocate for its preservation whether it is our Downtown buildings, our historic residential homes, our Township Halls, our Museum Village and our Pioneer cemeteries.

INSPIRE: through our newsletter the goal is to inspire our readers to become more involved in their local history. Recently a newcomer to our community, Kim Pratt volunteered to catalogue our newsletter articles to make it easier for members and researchers to find information. Soon you will be able to research stories from the past 50 years that may only exist in Newsletter articles. Thanks go to all that contribute their writing talents to create these historical documents and thanks to all who financially support us so we can continue to do what we do. Please join us on our mission.

Happy Summer

Marilyn

Welcome to our New Members

Introducing Amanda Kiezebrink and Jessie Colwell as the new Lake Scugog Historical Society's newest board members.



AMANDA KIEZEBRINK is a third generational farmer having taken over Bray Ridge Farms in 2021. She is the owner operator of Farmstead Bed & Breakfast Inc, and The Silo Store. She is also a 14 year veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy having served as a mechanical engineer (stoker).

She holds a BA in psychology from the Royal Military College of Canada, a Masters in Disaster and Emergency Management from Royal Roads University and a horticulture diploma from Durham College.

In the summer she can be found at the PP Farmers market selling Bray Ridge farms flavoured butters and breads and in the fall and winter in local fields and woodlots practicing the sport of falconry with her red tailed hawk, Artax.



JUSTICE COLWELL has been a resident of Port Perry almost his entire life. He spent his early years in downtown Port Perry before moving to Scugog Island in 2001.

He is a proud member of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and currently owns a retail shop (Adawegamig) located on the Island that sells vintage clothing & antiques. He has his BA in art History & a BFA in intermedia both from NSCAD university in Halifax.

Justice is a life-long collector of history including local items, advertising, First nation items and Textiles and a certified personal property appraiser.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LSHS

2024 Tentative Schedule

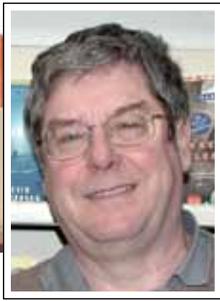


Please Note: Some events, dates and locations could change. Coming Events calendar will be updated in future newsletters.

Speakers: Rotary Room - Scugog Memorial Library
Doors Open: 6:30 pm - Speaker at 7 p.m.

- 1** July 20, 21: 26th Annual MSIFN Pow Wow
Scugog Island
- 2** August 2-4: 94th Lake Scugog Regatta
Caesarea Waterfront
- 3** August 10: Lake Day
Lake Stewards exhibit -TBD
- 4** August 18: Blackstock Methodist Cemetery Walk
Followed by talk & exhibit at the church - 1:00 p.m.
– Launch of new Blackstock Driving Tour brochure
- 5** August 24: The 157th Blackstock Fair
Exhibit on back lawn of Cartwright Town Hall
- 6** Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 - Port Perry Fair
Port Perry Fairgrounds
- 7** Sept 20, 21: Scugog Culture Days:
Scugog Shores Museum 11am - 4pm
featuring Art collection of the Museum.
- 8** Sept. 17: SPEAKER SERIES - 6:30 p.m.
What's In Your Attic?
- 9** October 19-20: FALL ANTIQUE SHOW
Scugog Community Centre
- 10** October 29: Downtown PP Ghost Walk
New – Robyn Pegg
- 11** November 1-10 - Fall/Winter Archivist Newsletter
- 12** November 19: SPEAKER SERIES - 6:30 p.m.
Scugog Library Rotary Room.
Speaker: Ted Barris - Canadians in the Battle of Britain
- 13** Dec. 10 - Christmas Social & Show & Tell

Print & Save for future reference.



On The Shelf

A Book Review by Bill Minors

CRYSTAL BEACH; OUT OF THE PARK

BY GARY POOLER

FRIESEN PRESS \$42.00

For those of you, of a certain age, this new book by Gary Pooler should bring back memories.

Crystal Beach was once one of Canada's greatest entertainment centres, existing for over a hundred years in an isolated village in one of the southern-most corners of Ontario, just across the lake from Buffalo, New York. Nicknamed "Buffalo's Coney Island", the Crystal Beach Amusement Park swarmed with American visitors in its mid-century glory days, and its stories were carried all over the world.

The whole thing started with Buffalo native John E. Rebstock acquiring the Bertie Township property. It was originally meant to be a religious camp modelled on something similar in Chautauqua, N.Y. This should not be a surprise given that that Mr. Rebstock's middle name was Evangelist. He was a devout

Methodist. However there is more money in sin than in scripture and the site morphed into a storied amusement park which survived until an auction of the rides and amusements in 1989.

At its height the Steamer AMERICANA and later the CANADIANA would make 10 trips a day bringing 3,000 Americans at a time from Buffalo. During the winter, Crystal Beach was a sleepy little town of less than a thousand people, which would swell in summer to over thirty thousand.

What I found particularly interesting were some of the people who came through Crystal Beach. In the sporting area, the famous American sprinter Jesse Owens, who won 4 gold medals at Hitler's 1936 Olympics, (he lost both of his races in Crystal Beach).

Joe Louis, the heavyweight boxing champion.

In entertainment, the actress Gloria Swanson makes an appearance. Johnny Weismuller, later to portray Tarzan gave a swimming and diving exhibition. In 1964 Canadian John Kay was working in Crystal

Beach, he would later help found Steppenwolf and co-wrote the Classic "Magic Carpet Ride". Maybe a coincidence, but right across from where worked was an amusement called "Magic Carpet Ride".

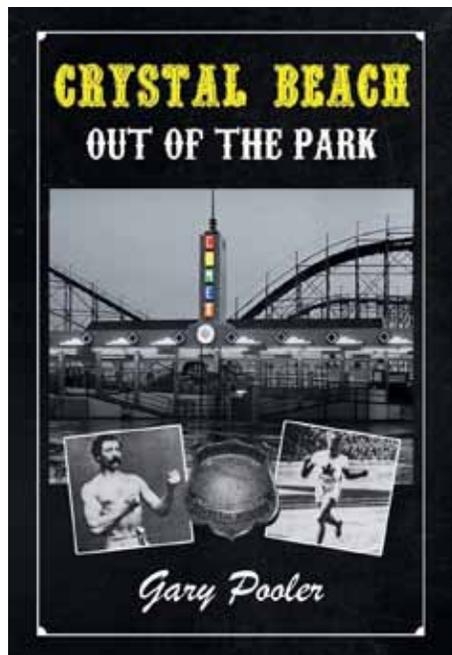
In the 1920's Prohibition in the US was at its height, Crystal beach and nearby Port Colborne were at the centre of certain spirits being shipped to a certain Mr. Capone. Maybe because it had basically a private Police Force, Crystal Beach seemed to hire and fire them on a regular basis.

A whole book could probably be devoted to one of them: Michael John O'Leary. Born in County Cork, Ireland he joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and received a commendation for bravery following a 2 hour gun battle. With the outbreak of World War 1,

he joined the Irish Guards.

On February 1st, 1915 with his unit pinned down and most of the officers killed or wounded he single handedly charged 2 German machine gun positions killing or capturing 10 Germans. For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was appointed Chief Constable on July 1st 1925 and fired 2 months later.

With the building of the Peace Bridge, Canada's Wonderland and other competing attractions, Crystal Beach went into decline, it is now just a nice place to live. For these and many other stories, I highly recommend this book.



Lake Scugog Historical Society

Speaker Series

THE AVRO ARROW
 Tues., June 11, 2024 - Author Palmiro Campagna



Jessie & Amanda at the welcome sign-in table with some of the LSHS brochures and information.



Author Palmiro Campagna signing his new book for guests.



Palmiro Campagna drew a large crowd to the Scugog Library to listen to his story about Canada's "Avro Arrow." Estimates suggest it may have been the LSHS's largest attendance for the speaker series, with 97 people attending. Attendees were generous with the volunteer donations.

SPEAKER SERIES - Amanda Kiezebrink
 April 10, 2024 - Scugog Memorial Public Library



Lake Scugog Historical Society director Amanda Kiezebrink was the guest speaker on April 10, at the Scugog Memorial Public Library. Amanda, who is one of LSHS newest directors, lives in Scugog and is a local falconer. She provided an informative talk about the history of the sport, often injecting personal experiences and humour into the presentation. She is seen above with her Red Tailed Hawk, "Artax"

Digging Into History



by
JANIS
CARTER

The Gregg Family Cemetery

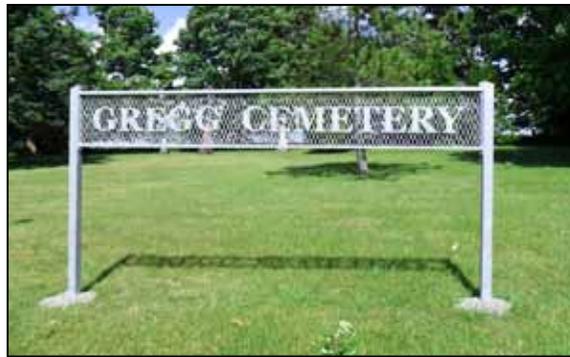
Reach Township, Ontario County

On Lakeridge Road (Durham Rd. 23), between Blue Mountain Road and Victoria Corners, on the east side of the road is a small cemetery with a few stones towards the back of the lot and a very elaborate sign that says GREGG. This is Concession 13, Lot 1 in the former Reach Township.

I have also seen the cemetery referenced as the Dure Hill Cemetery. The Dures were a family that lived just to the south of the Gregg lands, around what is now called Blue Mountain Road. Other Dures lived in Scott Township, on the other side of Lakeridge Road.

An obituary found at the Scugog Shores Museum states that Mrs. Gregg was buried at the cemetery at Victoria Corners. Although the cemetery is two concessions south of Victoria Corners, it is the closest village to the cemetery and was probably sometimes referred to in that way.

The cemetery contains twenty remaining stones and although there are about a dozen different surnames on these stones, this is truly a family cemetery. All the people buried here are either from a direct line of the Gregg family or a relative of an in-law of the family. The oldest burial is for Joseph Gregg, son of Robert and Elizabeth Gregg, died Oct 1861, age 19. The latest burial is Mabel Johnson Buckler, wife of Robert John Gregg, in 1975.



I have done very quick research of the family to get the basics. I have not followed the family lines down past the first generation in Canada. Hugh Gregg (1785-1839) and his wife Jane Cox (1778-1873) arrived in Canada from Co. Antrim, Ireland in the early 1830's. Their ten children either came with them or arrived separately throughout the 1830's. They first went to Markham for about 3 years, then about 1837, settled in Pickering Township, Conc 8 Lot 25, just west of Claremont.

Unfortunately, Hugh died soon after, not able to enjoy his new home very long, and leaving some still young teenage children for Jane to raise. Hugh and Jane's children, all born in Ireland, were: Robert: 1808-1891; Elizabeth: born about 1810; James: 1812-1884; Ellen: 1813-1885; John: 1816-1900; Joseph: 1819-1910; Mary Jane: 1822-1903; Nancy Ann: 1824-1914; Hugh: 1826- 1920; David: 1826-1917

The names listed on stones in this cemetery are: Buckler, Evans, Gregg and its variations, Harris, Healy, Jack, Johnson, Lambert, Meek, Pollard, Reynolds, Snoddon, Warren and Weese. Of these, Buckler, Healy, Johnson, Meek, Pollard, and Warren are all people that married into the Gregg family

A transcription of this cemetery can be purchased at Reach Township – Ontario Ancestors (ogs.on.ca)

SOURCES:

1. Illustrated Historical Atlas County of Ontario; J H Beers, Toronto, 1877
2. Greenbank: Country Matters in the 19 th Century Ontario; WH Graham, 1988 Ancestry.ca
3. Past Years in Pickering by Wm R Wood, 1911 Onland.ca

Editor Note: This 19 th century cemetery is an Ontario Heritage Act designated site in the Township of Scugog (2018) as a direct link to the history of Reach & Uxbridge.



The ORANGEMEN PARADES



by
Marilyn
Pearce



Orange Parade in Blackstock, 1911.

A few years ago I read an article written by Bill Ferguson entitled "Orangeism in Cartwright Township" and was fascinated to read about the strength of this organization in Scugog Township. I had seen many postcards of their annual parade with its band and onlookers lining the streets but must confess I did not know a great deal about why these large celebrations had taken place. I recall my Dad always mentioning when the orange lilies came out to bloom we were getting near the Orangemen's Day, July 12th or the Saturday nearest that date.

To fully understand the meaning of Orangeism, Mr. Ferguson noted we must go back to the rule of Henry VIII who came to the throne in 1509. It was because of the controversy around his multiple marriages that the English parliament made the break with the Roman Catholic Church and by 1689 banned all Roman Catholics from the Throne.

The Orange Association was then founded on the principle of civil and religious liberty and its platform of Protestantism, Patriotism and Freedom. The order was founded to RESIST religious persecution not to impose it on others. Many lodges in Canada were formed by discharged British army officers who settled here but there was an Indigenous Lodge in eastern Ontario who celebrated annually by parading in their ceremonial dress.

In Cartwright Township the Orange Lodge was formed in 1838 and was mostly early immigrants from Northern Ireland. But times had changed as did those values and attitudes from those early founding days. There was a shift from the basic Fraternal concept to service activities within their communities.

The first Lodge in Cartwright was L.O.L #133 in Blackstock and first Lodge room or hall was at what was known as Jobb's Corners (now the corner of Hwy 7A and Old Scugog Road.) The second lodge in Cartwright was the Purple Hill L.O.L #399 and they met in a log building on Shirley Road but purchased the Purple Hill School in 1956 and that Lodge hall still exists today. The third Lodge was L.O.L #408 Burton and the fourth was L.O.L #43

Devitts. There was also a Ladies Lodge L.O.B.A #849 formed in 1928.

Port Perry also had an Orange Lodge and hosted their own parades and picnics within this community. Bob Prentice was an active member and recounts many stories of the community work of that Lodge.

The Lodges in Scugog were an important fraternal organization of the day contributing funds and volunteers for many events and causes including cancer research, hospital expansion locally, and insurance plans for their members. Many joined for the social camaraderie of like-minded citizens who valued and honoured their faith, the welfare of their community, the Sovereign and their country. Good qualities to follow as we celebrate Canada's 157th year.



Orangemen's "Heritage Parade" in Port Perry July 1995.

Out & About



~ PRINCE ALBERT HALL OPEN HOUSE ~



The LSHS held an Open House at that Prince Albert Hall on June 8th. A good crowd attended the former school house to reminisce, view exhibits and rekindle with friends and share memories about the former school house. Left, Leanne Ashbridge and Beth Pereman; Steve Brain with a plaque showing cemetery curators from his family, and Eileen Hodgson looking over memorabilia.

~ LSHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~



There was a good turnout to hear guest speaker, Diane Chin, President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario with LSHS president, Marilyn Pearce.



Port Perry Legion, Branch 419 was the recipient of the "Bill & Claudette Brock Award" for 2024, at the annual General Meeting of the LSHS on May 15th. Eileen Gerber, centre, accepted the plaque on behalf of the Legion for its outstanding preservation of history through its banner booklet. Back left, Bill Stimson, Bob Horton; front left, Claudette Brock, Eileen Gerber, Kelly Walton and LSHS president Marilyn Pearce.

SPORTS *Scugog* HISTORY

Remembering “Vini’s Mini’s”

In June 1968, the Port Perry Star announced the main attraction for the Port Perry Minor Softball Booster Night would be a game featuring the “much travelled group called Vini’s Mini’s”.

The Mini’s were to take on two of the Junior Ladies teams on Saturday June 22. There was much speculation about this team, all very secretive and only to be revealed at game time.

The article introduced the pitcher for the team as “the Great Donelda”. On June 27, the Star reported that the team came into the ball park in a bus stopping at 2nd base. Out of the bus came “nine good looking ball players, a manager, a coach and two smartly dressed, bright eyed, attractive umpires”.

The players were introduced as Vimy Ridges, Graceful Flamingo, Darling Dorothy, Marcie the Musher, Greasy Grace, Candy Cane, Hopeless Hariett, Donelda (Pitcher), and Charlene Minus (Catcher) along with the import Babe Ruth’s Aunt and Coach Cuddly Clara, Manager Mandy, and two umpires Daffy Dora and Dirty Gert.

The big surprise was Vini’s Mini’s were revealed as the executive members and coaches of Port Perry & District Minor Softball dressed as females.

The idea for the team was based on a charity team from the US called California Cuties. After a very good effort on behalf of the players and lots of antics, the Mini’s were declared the winners. Following the game, raffle prizes were presented to lucky fans who travelled from Port Perry, Greenbank, Scugog Island and as far away as Oshawa.

Vini’s Mini’s returned to also close out the 1968 and 1969 seasons and everyone awaited their return. On Sunday September 29, 1968 at 2 pm Vini’s Mini’s were challenged by the Ladies All Star Team. The Star reports that the team “entertained with a few new faces and few new tricks.” Great Aunt Melody split the pitching with Donelda.

It seems from the article that the plate umpire, Dumpy Dora and new base umpire, Bobie-Lu Baby were the stars of the game. Vini’s Mini’s had become great fundraisers for minor softball.

Vini’s Mini’s were to return again in September 1973 to a challenge against the Chamber of Commerce “No Stars. The team had picked up some new players: Happy Hooker replaced Charlene Minus as Catcher, Hefty Helen and Flossie Flirt joined Dumpy Dora and Dirty Gert, who took up Infield positions, Delta Dawn, Long Tail Sally and Greasy Grace were the outfielders and new umpires were Blind Bertha and Short Sighted Sue.

The final known appearance of Vini’s Mini’s was on August 7, 1975, as part of Western Weekend. The Chamber of Commerce “No Stars” challenged the Mini’s to a rematch. Vini’s Mini’s arrived at the diamond courtesy of Bo-Bo Express driven by Ab Fulford. The Star reports that “even with the talents of Ken Goreski and Jim Burnett, the “No Stars” were defeated by a score of 5-3.” The “No Stars” had to contend with multiple sized balls being pitched over the plate along with the infamous “grapefruit pitch”.

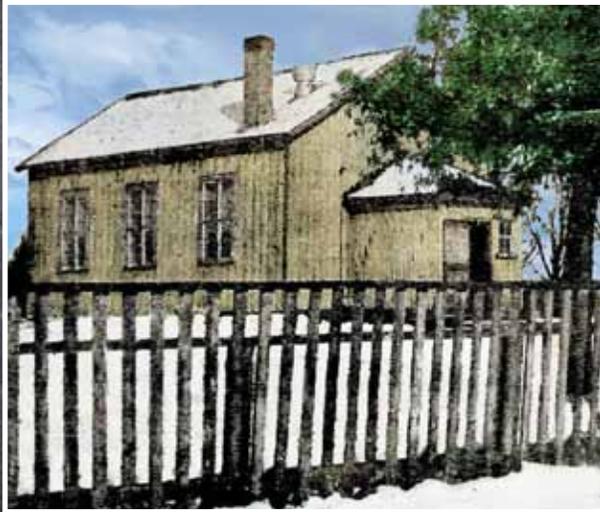
The Sports Hall of Fame has limited photographs and incomplete lists of names of those who participated in these simple fun events. If anyone finds other articles or photos please email liashbridge@gmail.com



By
Leanne
Ashbridge



Mini’s Mini’s ace pitcher
“Marcie the Musher” during a
game in August 1975.



Reach Township's Yellow Schoolhouse

The above board-and-batten schoolhouse was opened about 1856, and completely destroyed by fire on December 2, 1930. It was replaced by the yellow brick structure in 1931, which remains today as a private residence on Old Simcoe Rd., north of the soccer fields.

Originally the wooden schoolhouse was painted a 'buttery' yellow, from which came its name. When the brick schoolhouse was built, they paid a little extra for the 'yellow' brick maybe to continue that historic connection.

Jean Holtby was the last teacher at the Yellow School when it was closed in 1968. The schoolhouse was bought by Gail and Peter Chellew, both of whom taught at Port Perry High School. The Chellews converted the schoolhouse into a 'home' and raised three daughters there.

They modernized the former school by adding hot-beds along the south side and solar panels on the roof. Peter built a scale model of the wooden schoolhouse which was proudly on display in the front yard for several years.



By
Bill Holtby



Students and teacher at S.S. #9, "Yellow School" in September 1928.
Does anyone know any of the names?

At that time there was a stage between the boys and girls 'segregated' entrances with the cloak rooms and washrooms in the projections to the north and south.

The Centre School on the Island and the schoolhouse in Columbus (north side west of the four corners) are practically if not to the same set of blue-prints used in the early 20th century as wooden schools were replaced by brick.

Both, like the Yellow School, are now residential properties and are fine examples of buildings from our early history that have been kept, fixed and reused.

If you have photos, stories, memorabilia, report cards, of the 'good old days' of one-room schoolhouses, PLEASE, let us know.

PETER PERRY

The Background and birth of Peter Perry,
the founder of Port Perry.

Excerpt from Chapter One of a biography of Peter Perry presently being researched by Paul Arculus.

Walloomsac, New York, near Bennington, Vermont,
Saturday August 16, 1777.

On this day one of the most critical battles of the American Revolution took place, a battle that led to the ultimate defeat of the British and their Loyalist supporters in the Thirteen Colonies.

After his successful defeat of the Americans at Fort Ticonderoga on July 6, "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne sent a detachment of his soldiers to raid Bennington to capture much needed horses, wagons and supplies. Among the British troops dispatched was a regiment of 300 Queen's Loyal Rangers, (QLR), that included a Vermont farmer named Robert Perry and his cousin David Shorey. The cousins had jointly purchased a 100-acre plot of land in Rutland Township in Vermont where they had cleared the land and built a home. In May 1777 Robert and David joined the QLR.

Defending Bennington, a huge contingent of the American Rebel militia had gathered. It consisted of units from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont. 2000 troops were led by General John Stark, joined by 350 of Colonel Seth Warner's Green Mountain Boys.

The opposing troops began opening fire shortly after nine o'clock on August 16. The firing became a deafening cacophony that continued until four o'clock.

The Rebels, with their larger numbers and more adequate supplies, including two heavy brass cannons that they had captured from the British, were able to encircle the Loyalists forces. The result was a humiliating defeat for the Loyalist forces.

Before nightfall, the sound of gunfire had been replaced by the heart wrenching cries of the dying and wounded who littered the battlefield. Due to the lack of "a proper proportion of medicine and chirurgical materials" many wounded were left to die on the battlefield.

The records estimate the British and German losses at

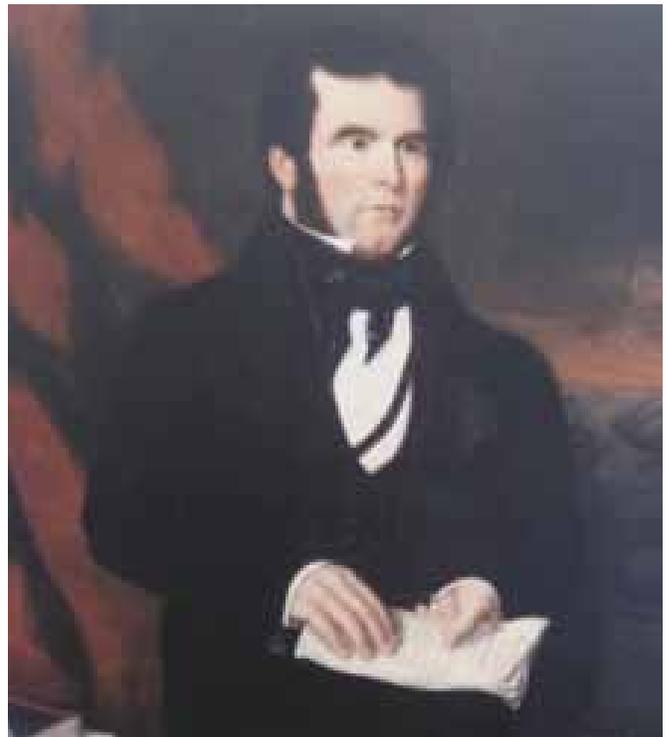


Photo of a portrait of Peter Perry located in Whitby, Ontario.

700 captured and 207 dead. The Americans suffered 30 dead and 40 wounded.

Robert Perry and several members of the QLR had stealthily left the battlefield at the conclusion of the disaster, and under cover of darkness, made their way to join Burgoyne and the British forces near Saratoga. While Robert and David were at Saratoga, their wives and children remained at the homestead in Vermont; Jemima Perry and her three children and Althea Shorey also with three children. The young families continued to live under increasing harassment as the Rebels celebrated each British defeat with more intense taunting of the Loyalist families.

Early in 1778, a Rebel group marched into their Vermont home and confiscated the property and all the Perry and Shorey possessions. The women and children were literally thrown out onto the road and ordered to walk 200 miles to St. John's (St. Jean) across the border in Quebec. Jemima was several months pregnant. They were not allowed to take any possessions.

Sleeping out in the open or under trees, it is unlikely that the bedraggled group would have received much compassion from those who lived along the route, as any who did so would have been afraid of reprisals for offering assistance to Loyalists.

They travelled north along the east side of Lake George and Lake Champlain. Some days later, the Vermont authorities received a bill from Gideon

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

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Cooley. He requested one shilling for compensation for providing board for one night and ferrying Mrs. Perry and three children, and Mrs. Shorey, and three children across Lake Champlain to its west bank on September 19, 1778.

The exhausted group arrived at St John, Quebec on September 23, 1778, where a temporary camp had been established to accommodate hundreds of Loyalists who had similarly fled from Upper New York State and Vermont. Here, they received much needed nourishment and commiseration from other refugees. Shortly after her arrival at St. John, Jemima gave birth to her fourth child, a son, Rennet.

In September and October 1778, in Vermont, the property and contents of the Perry and Shorey families, along with homes and property of other Loyalists, was disposed of at sales and auctions. At a sale in Windsor, Vermont, on October 19, 1778, the former Perry/Shorey house and the accompanying ninety-seven acres of land was sold to James Claghorn for £460.

At a sale in Hartford, Vermont, a brown cow formerly owned by the Perrys was sold to Ensign Nathan Howling for £7-16-0. A red cow was sold to Josiah Clark for £5-8-0, and a cart belonging to the Perrys was sold to an un-named buyer for £6-0-0. All proceeds became the property of the state of Vermont.

Robert and Jemima were finally re-united at Sorel before Jemima was relocated to a refugee camp at Machiche, a few miles to the northeast. Here Jemima was among 400 refugees and remained there for five years while Robert, now promoted to captain, was ful-

filling his military duties. While at Machiche, Jemima gave birth to three more children.

The Treaty of Versailles, signed in September 1783, officially brought the American Revolutionary War to a conclusion. Officials in London instructed the administrators in the Canadian provinces to provide compensation and accommodation to former troops and to other Loyalists who had fled from the former Thirteen Colonies.

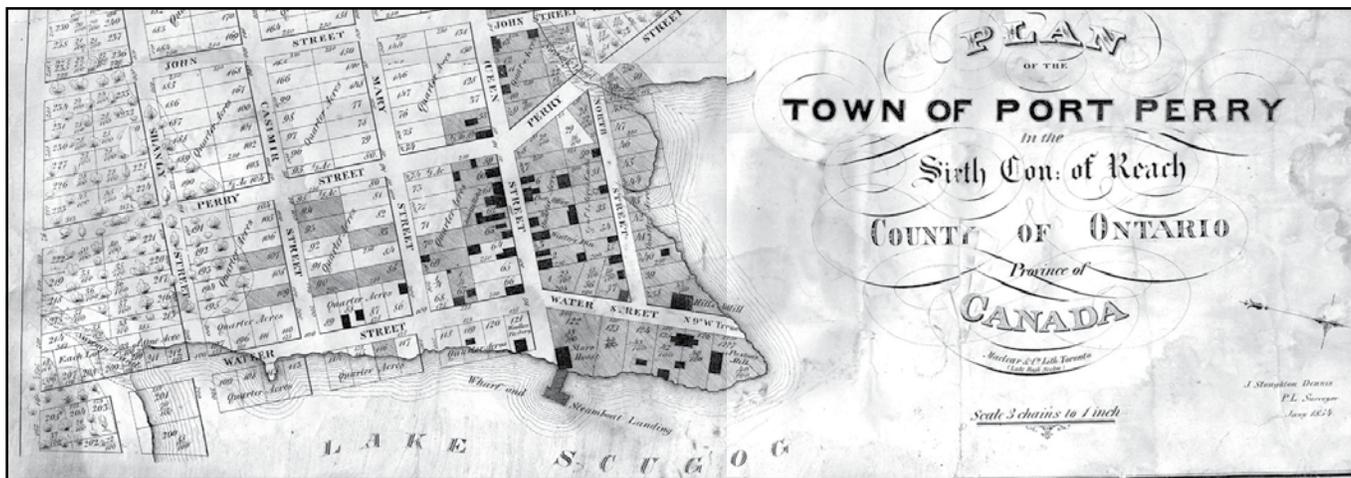
Sir John Johnson, was instructed to buy land from the Mississaugas on which to settle the thousands of former troops. He purchased a tract of land from the Quebec border, westward to the Trent River, along the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River and Lake Ontario,

Under the initial July 16, 1783 legislation, private soldiers were to get 100 acres. This was raised to 200 acres in 1787. Each family was also provided with basic supplies such as an axe, spade and hoe, seeds, and some food rations and cloth with which to make clothes.

In October, 1784, Robert Perry, took possession of 200 acres in lot 3, concession 2 of Ernestown, just west of today's village of Bath.

By the fall of 1792, the Perry family had built a livable cabin on their property. On November 14, 1792, in this humble home, thirty-eight-year-old Jemima Perry, gave birth to her eleventh and last child, a boy, one who would later change the face of Ontario and become the driving force behind two important communities: Port Perry and Whitby.

He was given the name Peter Perry.



This 1854 map of downtown Port Perry shows the location of buildings along Queen, North and Water streets.



by
Victoria
Karakian

Scugog Shores Museum Village

& Archives

SUMMER AT THE MUSEUM

It has been a busy summer already at the Scugog Shores Museum Village and Archives. Lee House has undergone restorations to the foundation, roof, and select other areas. The finishing touch will be new wallpaper in the upstairs where repairs took place. Wallpaper has been chosen to match the time period by a designer who works with the Ontario Heritage Trust!

Beneath the surface, Lee House has seen a change from an oil furnace to natural gas, thank you to the Lake Scugog Historical Society and the 100 Men of Scugog for assisting with this project.

Rodman Cabin is also undergoing change this year and will be moved from its current location to join the Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands. This building houses the Indigenous History exhibit and is used for tours and programming; we are excited for this building to be paired with the Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands to assist us in telling a fulsome history of Scugog.

To tell this story we will be integrating exhibit pieces from the Indigenous History exhibit created in partnership with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, formerly located at the Heritage Centre.

We are excited to invite the Historical Society to join us in a Work Bee at the Museum on Monday July 8th at 10am. This Work Bee will assist with Phase 1 of our reorganization project covering one quarter of the storage building.

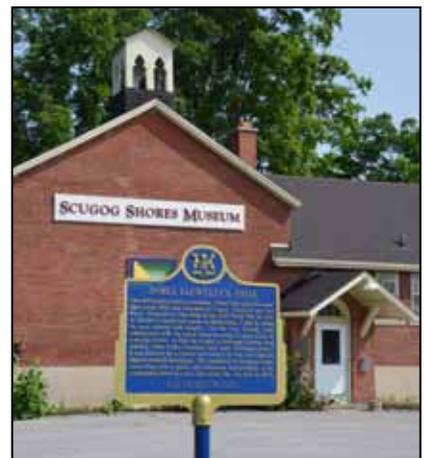
Volunteers are needed to assist in inventory, movement, identification, significance to Scugog's history, and reorganization of the collection. All volunteers are welcome and training will be provided.

Historians and collectors who can assist with updating information, context, and relevance to Scugog history are also needed. Please let us know if you would like to join us by emailing museum@scugog.ca so we can prepare refreshments.

Additional fundraising and education events this summer include:

- Leatherworking Workshop with special guest Tandy Leather – Saturday July 20, 11-1 OR 2-4
- Museum Market Craft Show – Sunday July 21, 11am-3pm
- Any Body for Tea – Murder Mystery – Sunday August 11, 11am
- Scugog Heritage Day – Sunday August 18, 11-4

Interested in joining us for Heritage Day as a volunteer, demonstrating a heritage skill, or setting up a display? We would be happy to have you join us to help share Scugog's Heritage! Contact us at museum@scugog.ca or 905-982-2404.



Membership Drive

for 2024 continues

Please consider supporting our programs by renewing your membership for 2024 as these fees fund our Speaker Series, our Newsletter, our Historical Walks, and our operating costs.

While we have a number of new members, including Darlene Christie as a Life Member, some of our long-time members have yet to renew. We want you back!!!

Thank you to all those currently renewed for your ongoing support and if you have any questions about the status of your membership please email lakescugohistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call 905-985-9250.

Membership remains at \$15/individual, \$25 for a family, \$50 business and \$300 for a life member. There are three easy ways to join: Memberships can be dropped off at Books Galore 175 Perry St., Port Perry; or by E-transfer to lakescugohistoricalsociety@gmail.com; or by going to our web-site: lakescugohistoricalsociety.com

Renew Now for 2024 – help Support LSHS • Your membership is the Future of our History.

Thank You!

- **Receive three yearly newsletter delivered by email or traditional Canada Post mail.**
(members preference)
- **Free admission to Speaker Series.**
- **Email reminders of upcoming events.**
- **Discounts of 10% on book purchases of Society publications.**

Please fill out this form and continue to support the Lake Scugog Historical Society as we preserve, protect and tell the stories of our heritage.

A BEAUTIFUL MAY DAY

~

it be a beautiful day in May
in my Port Perry country garden

the warmth of spring sun
so welcoming
after old man winter's chill

the blossoms of fruit trees
wearing a variety
of purple and white dress

their branches appear to be
reaching out for one another

a soft breeze
occasionally
allowing them to lightly touch

a perfect vision

one of nature's couples
gently dancing
across the day

what joy
it brings me

thank you spring

by Brian Hugh McLatchie



Flying High

Daredevil attempts USA to Canada balloon flight in 1857

CARTWRIGHT TOWNSHIP strangely became part of an international story in June 1857, just weeks after John H. Steiner, an adventurous and daring aeronaut, attempted to fly in a hydrogen filled fabric balloon, across Lake Erie to Canada.

The adventurous Steiner, took off from his home around Erie, Pennsylvania, as a large crowd watched the huge balloon rise into the air heading northwest towards Long Point, Ontario. People gathered on roof tops, and on the water sailboats and steamships sounded their horns at the sight of this strange, huge egg shaped flying machine.

Along the way, Steiner, in his small gondola ran into high winds, rain and flashes of lightning. He would later recall, "Every moment the surrounding masses of clouds were illuminated by flashes of lightning, succeeded by terrible crashes of thunder, in the very midst of which I seemed to be floating, and my excited imagination led me to fancy that I would feel my frail gondola quiver at every shock."

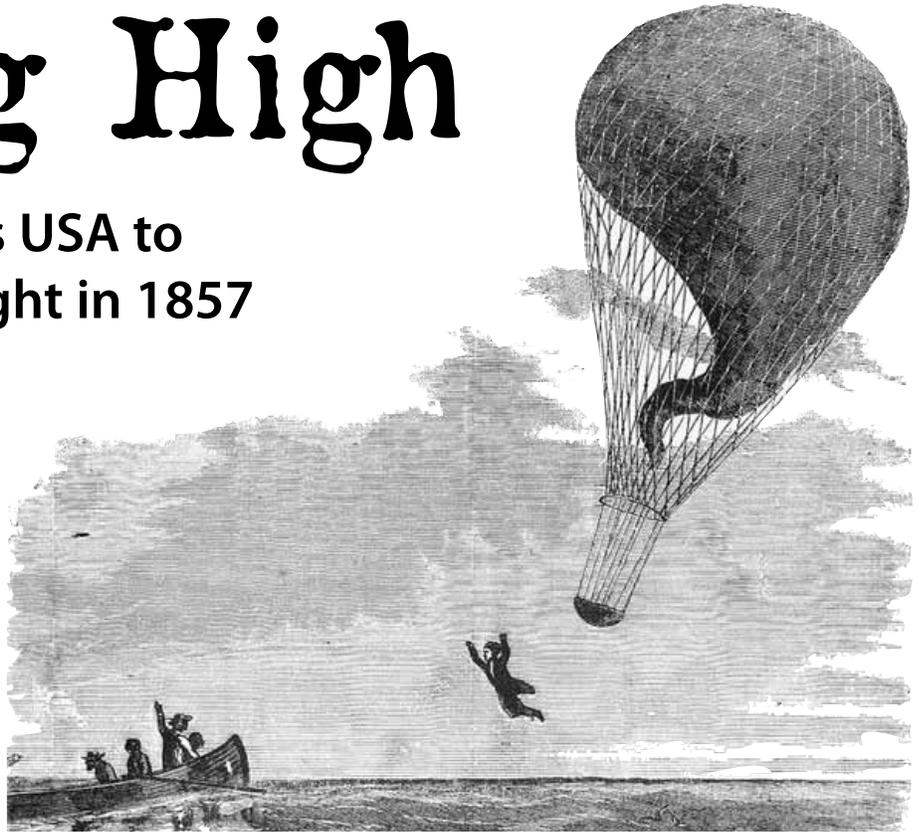
It wasn't long before the balloon began losing altitude, eventually skipping along the rough surface of Lake Erie. It rolled in the powerful water, then bounced at least 50 feet up into the air at a dangerous angle, before plunging to the lake again with great force.

Fortunately a steamship, the Mary Stewart, on its way to Detroit, saw the strange vessel and headed to aid Steiner, who jumped from the balloon into the cold water, before being pulled safely aboard.

Despite the efforts of the Mary Stewart's crew, to secure the balloon, it slipped away and disappeared into the wooded inland of Ontario.

Weeks after the fateful incident, which sent shockwaves throughout Canada and the United States, an article in the *Whitby Chronicle* solved the mystery of where the balloon had finally crashed back to earth.

The article, published on July 16, 1857 reported that



John Steiner is shown leaping from his balloon into Lake Erie in this contemporary engraving.

Hydrogen balloon crash lands in Cartwright after disaster over Lake Erie 167 years ago



By
J. Peter
Hvidsten

the large sized balloon was found about 25 miles north of Whitby, in the Township of Cartwright. It was first seen by the people of Cartwright on the 19th of June, who thought it to be a spark from a comet's tail, and were considerably alarmed in the consequence. After an extensive search of the area by residents it was located in a nearby field.

Two weeks later, on July 30th, the *Chronicle* reported on the incident, saying the steamer Woodman would convey passengers to see Steiner's balloon in Cartwright. So, in company with about 50 other curious patrons, the editor of the *Chronicle* made his way to Port Perry where he stepped on board the Woodman at Lake Scugog, and arrived at Lasher's Point (Caesarea), after a few hours sail.

John Lasher charged 25¢ a head for admission to his large barn, in which the balloon was kept.

Although the barn was not large enough to accommodate the balloon fully inflated, the ingenious exhibitor, with the aid of a pair of Smiths bellows, managed to partially fill it with air, so as to give his visitors an idea of the massive dimensions of the balloon.

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Your Donation is important!

Every donation is important and helps to fund our programs and projects. At our AGM in May the Board identified the new projects for 2024 which include:

- Scovell Pioneer Cemetery Restoration
- Museum Donation to fund needed repairs – this year the Head Church floor painting and tea room upgrades have been identified
- Increasing the number of Speaker Series to 4 times per year
- Blackstock & Prince Albert Area Driving Tour Brochures



We want to **Thank** the **Brock Family** and most recently the **Compton Family Foundation** for their generous donations towards these 2024 programs.

You can also help by making a donation through the *Canada Helps* website:

- www.canadahelps.org
- or by E-transfer to: lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com
- or by cheque payable to: **Lake Scugog Historical Society.**

Contribute today to preserve and protect Scugog's Heritage Resources